

Dear Co Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Albis, and Honorable Members of the Environmental Committee,

Please accept this testimony in SUPPORT of SB 227, (Cecil's Law)

I vote and this issue is extremely important to me.

Like 86% of Americans, I disapprove of trophy hunting. The issue has gained national attention and worldwide outrage last summer when Cecil, a beloved lion who lived in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, was lured out of his home and shot with an arrow by a Minnesota dentist. Cecil Suffered, as the arrow shot was not immediately lethal ("crippling rates" are very high with bow hunting), and then he died.

And for what, so some man could say he snuffed out a life of this majestic creature? Now his family must learn to survive without him.

Trophy hunters highly covet the "Africa Big Five" species, imported to the US in staggering numbers between 2005 and 2014.
5,600 African lions, 4,600 African elephants, 4,500 African leopards, 330 southern white Rhino & 17,200 African Buffalo.

All but the buffalo are considered endangered or threatened with extinction. Ensuring that no person imports, possesses, sells, offers for sale or transports in CT any Big five African species will end Connecticut's role in the global slaughter of these magnificent species.

Businesses are washing their hands clean of trophy hunting. 45 airlines have stopped transporting some or all types of hunting trophies, especially that of the Africa Big Five.

Trophy Hunting is not conservation.

Many animals are killed in countries with widespread corruption that prevents money raised from trophy hunting benefitting conservation efforts.

In 2015 and 2015, the US Fish and Wildlife Services prohibited imports of African elephant trophies from Tanzania, citing questionable management practices, a lack of effective law enforcement, and weak governance.

Further South Africa recently banned exports of African leopard trophies for 2016, citing mismanagement due to a lack of data on both population and carrying capacity.

Like in other types of hunting, trophy hunters prefer to kill the largest and the strongest animals, usually males with the most aggressive manes, tusks, horns etc.

These animals are endowed with best genes for survival and once killed; their strong genes are lost to future generations.

You might ask why are elephants and the other animals important to the planet or why should I care ?

Elephants and the other animals are key species needed on Earth to protect ecosystems, biodiversity and forests.

For Cecil's sake, please support SB 227—Please see any language recommendations made in testimony provided by the Humane Society of the United States.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmest Regards,
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